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HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Stromboli: Volcano Echo to Amalfi Disaster

PREDICTIONS of natives that eruptions of Stromboli volcano would follow the recent fatal landslips at Amalfi, 100 miles north, though regarded at first as mere superstitions, proved true. Italian warships dispatched to aid Amalfi have been sent on to the volcano-island, spewing and spouting lava, to take off the inhabitants. These few farmers and miners persist in living on the island, in spite of the fact that scientists have predicted its disappearance beneath the seas.

The circular cone of the volcano which forms the island of Stromboli, and the six other islets of the Lipari group comprise a connecting link between Vesuvius on the mainland of Italy and Etna on Sicily. The volcanic wrath of these three mighty mountains is partially responsible for the terrific earth shudderings at Messina and in other parts of Sicily and Italy.

One of Vulcan's Forges of Ancient Legend

The situation of the Lipari group on a map suggests the idea that they are the stars which Sicily saw from a terrific blow in cosmic times on the tip of her nose, inflicted by the wrathful boot of Italy.

On Stromboli, which rises about 3,000 feet above sea level and about 6,000 above the floor of the sea, was one of the forges of Vulcan, according to the Ancients, on which he hammered out the scepter of Jove and the shields and spears of the gods. On its precipitous slopes Aeolus, the god of the winds, in company with his six sons and six daughters, was supposed to have held his revels and in the cavernous sides of the mountain to have confined their blasts.

In medieval times the belching crater of Stromboli was believed to be the entrance to Purgatory.

About a thousand feet from the top of Stromboli there is an opening from which steam issues and hangs in a smoky-looking cloud above the mountain. Ordinarily it is possible to climb up to the opening and look over upon the black floor through the cracks of which smoke issues and the red-hot lava hisses, boils and sputters, the "cooking" of the earth's interior resembling more than anything else the boiling of a large pot of mush. As the huge bubbles burst, lava is thrown high in the air. Sometimes the fire of the earth quickens, and then the hissing of the steam may be heard many miles out at sea and the lava boils over the side of the cone.

Volcano Flashes Like Man-made Lighthouses

Stromboli, unlike the volcanoes that experience intense paroxysms of activity followed by long periods of repose, offers one of the best examples of the continuously active volcano. Standing alone in the sea, it is visible for almost a hundred miles, its ever-lighted fires tinting the clouds and the sky with a rosy glow, which has led to its being known as "The Lighthouse of the Mediterranean." Its light, however, is not constant in its intensity; first the sky

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THE "BALANCE OF POWER" IN CHINA (See Bulletin No. 2.)

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Carrying the Baby

THE MODERN "joy-riding" family which hangs the baby in a small hammock in the back of the automobile where he swings with the breezes and the motion of the car is no more ingenious than the woman of the Holy Land who, as soon as her baby is able to sit alone, places him astride her shoulder, for she thus teaches the youngster to ride as if on horseback and gives him that fearless and immovable seat in his saddle for which the Easterner is renowned.

Besides this, her method has many other advantages—it strengthens the baby's back and legs, for he must learn the proper grip in order to maintain his balance as his mother goes unconcernedly about her work, it leaves her arms free, strengthens and improves her figure, expands her chest, and gives her that grace and ease which characterize the movements of Eastern women.

Only Boys Are Carried on Mothers' Shoulders

Soon he loosens his hands from her hair which at first he clutches frantically, having learned that trick of holding on with his knees which later enables a Bedouin, after a day's hunting, to produce from beneath his knee a coin which he placed there in the morning for safe-keeping throughout the day.

The boys only are carried in this fashion, the little girls never being thus dignified. This is probably the idea the Prophet Isaiah had in mind when in describing the forthcoming glory of Israel he says, "Thy daughters on their shoulders shall be carried."

Though the sculpture of ancient Egypt and Assyria shows that this method of carrying children has been a custom for at least 4,000 years, many Eastern women carry their children in a scarf slung hammock-wise over their backs, especially when the children are in their early infancy. Others place the babies astride their hips; this is done the world over.

Arab Youngster Sits on Mother's Head

Many of the Arab women, when they fill their great earthenware jars at the fountains have babies or small children suspended in sheets from their backs, the little fellows' legs stretched about their mothers' backs and their little heads peeping out at the curious world. When the jar has been filled, it takes the place of the baby on the woman's back, and the youngster mounts his mother's shoulder or her head, from which eminence he may gaze out over the desert in envy of a father who is galloping across the sands to exercise his horse and amuse himself with rifle practice.

Among the tailed people of Nigeria a mother carries her new-born baby around in a calabash shell, which resembles a gourd. Though the fathers of the tribe are said to be fond of their children, they are never caught carrying them.

The Kagoro women may be said to "wear" their children attached somewhere about their bodies. When the baby is very young the mother puts him on her back and holds him on, but he soon learns to hang on without any assistance.

is almost a bright red, which then decreases to a faint glow, only to be followed again by the bright light.

In this respect it resembles the flashing lighthouses which are common to coasts the world over, and in reality it is used by sailors in the Mediterranean. In lighthouses of the man-made kind the flashes come at regular intervals, one of the beacons being differentiated from another by the length of time between the flashes. Stromboli, in this respect maintains its individuality, for its glowings are very irregular, varying between one and twenty flashes per minute, the intensity also varying from time to time.

Scientists, in studying the flashes of the light of the mountain, have found that as the steam accumulates below, the lava in trying to force its way out pushes back the scum on the cauldron and leaves the surface of the molten mass exposed to view; when that bubble has burst with a roar the scum again darkens the surface, in consequence of which the sky glows and fades.

The little town of San Vincenzo on Stromboli is about sixteen miles from the Straits of Messina. The surrounding country is fertile and cotton, wine and figs are raised. The mountain sides yield sulphur and pumice stone.

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WHERE THE CONCORD OF SWEET SOUND IS A RELIGION

When Music was young, her abode, according to the poet, was Greece; but long since she was lured by golden-throated sopranos and soulful tenors to the more congenial clime of Sunny Italy, where every street urchin is an embryo opera star. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

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Sukhum: Russia's Miami

INTRICATELY curly, warm-toned wood of a circassian walnut dinner table or highly polished dresser are the closest contacts most Americans have to lofty Caucasus Mountains where Soviet officials now repair for their health, according to news reports from Russia.

Sukhum, on the western slope of these mountains, aspires to be not only a health resort for Russian government officials, but also a vacation paradise whose salubrity and beauty challenge that of Florida, California, the Riviera, Switzerland and the lovely tropical isles of the South Sea.

Wealthy Russians Build Villas Near Sukhum

Wealthy Russians are encouraging this development by building splendid villas whose verandas command a magnificent view of the Black Sea, deep forests and lofty Mt. Elbruz, one-third of which is constantly covered with snow. It is even reported that some Americans, preferring a more sparsely settled paradise on earth, have transferred their affections to the Caucasus.

Sukhum (Sukhum Kaleh, in full) is one hundred miles north from Batum at the eastern end of the Black Sea and is the only good port between Batum and the Sea of Azof. Mountaineers shun the city, fearing malaria, but the foothills of the frosty Caucasus, a background splashed against the sky with giant strokes, afford one of the most delightful climates in the world. It is natural that Russians make this district their vacation capital since the Caucasus is the only great mountain range in all Soviet-land and presents a striking relief to the flat, but fruitful plains. A famous Alpine guide who went to the Caucasus by rail, exasperated by endless horizontal lines in the Ukraine, finally broke out saying it was no use to go farther hunting for mountains since it was hourly becoming more evident that the world was truly flat.

Valleys Are Home of Circassian Walnut

Though the Caucasus Mountains as a whole are barren, gaunt, rugged to a fault, the western strip along the Euxine, ancient name for the Black Sea, is clothed heavily with forests and almost tropical undergrowth. Warm winds sweeping eastward are robbed of moisture by the mountain ridge. What arid Turkestan loses, Circassia and Abkhasia use to grow circassian walnut trees for beautiful furniture. Observers report the Caucasus forests remarkable for their variety; in addition to walnut there are oak, beech, pine, and many other varieties growing side by side. One enthusiast declares plums almost drop in the traveler's mouth as he rides down the Kodor Valley. Strawberries, raspberries and currants abound in the glens.

Botanists have found in this mountain retreat survivors of the vegetable world when the earth was young. Common plants, which ordinarily attain a height of one or two feet, become giants five or six feet tall. Mountainsides are great bouquets. The fireworks of flowers are said to recall Fourth of July skyrocket displays. There are great yellow scabious flowers, azure columbines and

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If she is going any great distance, however, she usually lends him a little support by tying one end of a sail-shaped carrier made of leather to her neck and the other around her waist. He can thus stick his legs out on each side of her body and rest comfortably in the sling.

Indians' Papooses Had Portable Cradles

Everyone knows what the American Indian baby's portable cradle looked like. The Indian father usually made his new baby a wooden framework basket which his grandmother covered and ornamented with designs done in beads or quills. But the infant practically never stayed in this cradle when he was not on a journey of some sort. At home he developed the muscles in his arms and legs by rolling around on a bed of skins or the grass.

The Tera women in the interior of Africa carry their children slung in their waistcloths behind them and cover their little heads with calabash shells in order to protect them from the sun. For a year after the Bayaka babies are born they are not washed and the fathers must also abstain from ablutions during that period.

New Guinea Baby Swings from House Roof

The New Guinea mother weaves a netted bag much like a large crocheted shopping bag, places the baby in the bottom of it on a small sleeping-mat, and hangs it from the roof of the house, where it is swung gently to and fro by anyone who cares to pull the string. When the mother is going on a journey she hangs the bag from her head suspended in front of her and with her teeth holds a mat over the infant to keep him from the sun and wind. She must tie a long streamer or vine to her skirt which trails along after her during her journey, for if the child's spirit should wander from its body, there must be some convenient way of its crawling back from the ground.

But the little Eskimo baby has the real "cinch," when it comes to having a soft place to ride and to sleep in. His mother makes for him a bag of baby-reindeer skin and lines it with fur, and then stuffs him, feet first, into the hood at the back of her fur garments. From its depths his beady black eyes peer out from over her shoulder. When he gets too heavy she dumps him out of her hood into a snowdrift and he chuckles and "goos" as he grabs handfuls of snow; when he whimpers she can very easily dump him out of the hood head foremost to feed him or she can gently shrug him to sleep.

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Bavaria Mixes Art, Music and Politics

BAVARIA, which recently saw the trial at Munich of General Ludendorff and Adolph Hitler, German leader, for high treason, is a strange combination of heated politics and high idealism. Oberammergau, whose noted players have recently toured the United States, is in Bavaria. It was in a Bavarian castle hundreds of years ago that the Hohenzollern family struck root. But this small state in the hills gave to the world the Holbeins, artists, father and son, as well as the Hohenzollerns, and afforded friends and appreciation for Mozart, Wagner and Liszt. Bavaria may be described, in fact, as a land of music entirely surrounded by mountains. It is a wooded amphitheater of the Alps foothills, slightly larger than the State of Maine, lying between Germany proper, Switzerland on the south and Austria on the east. It supports nearly 7,000,000 people; one-eighth of the German population. Munich, the capital, has a population larger than Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, while Nuremberg is about half as large.

Drains into North Sea and Black Sea

Even nature has had reservations concerning the logical direction of Bavarian fealty. Although tributaries of the Rhine drain the southern section of the country, most of the bowl in the hills drains into the Danube and thence to the Black Sea. The Ludwigskanal, the connecting link between the North Sea and the Black Sea, runs directly across Bavarian territory.

Bavaria agreed to alliance with Prussia in 1866 just before the Franco-German war. It has been uneasy under the yoke of the northern state, although it had more votes in the Reichstag than any other state save Prussia and had independent control over its posts, telegraph, railways, and army. The picturesque history of Bavaria, which has been ruled for more than a century by Counts of the House of Wittelsbach, makes it a magnified Graustark.

Before the World War Bavaria had another name which fitted perfectly with her dukes and duchesses and her music. Bavaria was Toyland. Nuremberg is noted the world over for toys. "Made in Germany" the familiar mark on toys in American stores before 1914, could have been changed in most instances to "Made in Bavaria." Woodcarvers of the Black Forest, which touches the state on the south, for years seemed to have a monopoly knowledge on how to pull children's heartstrings.

Home of Oberammergau Village Players

In 1634 plague swept Bavaria and in one mountain valley a band of peasants pledged a celebration to God every ten years if the curse were lifted. For three hundred years these country folk have kept faith. Their little village, Oberammergau, is now known the world over and thousands of people come to witness amid the hills this unique spectacle which portrays the story of Christ.

The continuance of this spectacle through years of strife and trouble in all Europe is distinctive of the Bavarian valley. Shut in among the hills its people

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crimson blooms like Alpine snake-weed. Beneath these gaudy canopies are found shade-loving blooms, geraniums, orchids, forget-me-nots, violets.

Orphan Race Combines Characteristics of Many Races

Like the strange plants, the Abkhasians, or the remnant of them, who inhabit this Caucasian paradise, are a race which seem to have no ties with the historical world. Ethnologists are said to have worked on the problem of their origin in vain. Like Northerners they are tall, fair-complexioned, blue-eyed, have auburn hair and love sports and athletics. Yet they have an oriental regularity of features. Other similarities ally them to Semitic races. They have no written language. Their fruitful mountain slopes provide an easy living and not seldom an adventurer in the hills is reminded of old Greek idyls as he comes upon a picturesque shepherd tending his flock grazing in infinite peace on a solitary mountain meadow.

Herodotus knew the Caucasus for the highest mountains with which the civilized world was acquainted. He reported that the people of their foothills lived on fruit, and so they do to a great extent, even today. Leaves for making fast dye were obtained in the forests, he wrote, and the people were insensible to laws of decency or morality. To the Black Sea shore of the Caucasus came Jason in his tiny ship in search of the golden fleece. Perhaps the "golden fleece" was merely an excuse, a "business trip" which would permit him to spend a summer at what the world has rediscovered as an attractive vacation resort.

Prometheus Was Bound on Flanks of Elbruz

Prometheus was bound by the gods to the frozen flanks of Elbruz, legend has it. He was the god of fire and cultural progress, a friend of man, and it was for frustrating acts of despotic deities that he was chained to the highest peak in Europe. The story served as the theme for Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound."

Elbruz, "monarch mountain top with kingly ermine snow," is constantly clothed, but visitors say it does not compare in majesty to many other famous world peaks. Like Mt. Rainier, Elbruz is a volcanic cone. Many peaks of the Caucasian barrier were once volcanoes spewing lava. Though it is the highest mountain in Europe, its 18,470 feet are exceeded by some Alaskan peaks, many in South America, and a few in Africa and Asia.

The Caucasus, as a mountain resort, lacks the lakes of Switzerland. Its numerous glaciers do not compare with the ice streams of Alaska's inland passage. It has not the diverseness of the American Northwest, but it can depend on romantic grandeur of forested valleys and crystal mountain-tops to attract tourists. Near Sukhum Kaleh the temperature seldom falls below freezing and does not exceed 80 degrees. Rainfall is moderate and regular throughout the year.

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Bizerta, French Gibraltar

BIZERTA, TUNIS, is a "dark horse" in the race for naval base strength in the Mediterranean. It is a fair question whether this fortified French port is not already as valuable strategically as that household word for strength, Gibraltar, or Britain's convenient naval half-way house, the Island of Malta. For Gibraltar is in gun-reach from neighboring Spanish territory both in Europe and Africa; and isolated Malta, dependent for supplies on the outside world, might conceivably be starved out in a few months. Bizerta, on the other hand, has a productive hinterland of French-controlled territory behind its heavily fortified and magnificent land-locked harbor.

Naval Base Is Huge Harbor 10 Miles Inland

There are two Bizertas, in reality. Along a wide, deep, quay-lined channel near the sea is the commercial harbor protected by jetties and breakwaters. Beyond the inner end of the channel, on the "Lake" of Bizerta, a deep arm of the sea, is the naval base, from which commercial craft are excluded. This "lake" has an area of more than 50 square miles and much of it has a depth of 30 feet. On deep water ten miles from the sea, only a giant's stone-throw from the ruins of Carthage, are naval works such as the seafaring old Phoenicians never dreamed of. The base constitutes in itself a city, Ferryville, named for Jules Ferry, who is in large part responsible for the presence of French authority in North Africa today. In the harbor are always to be found battleships and cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines. The skyline shoreward is pierced by great cranes and dock structures; and over all is the smoke and din of machine-shops.

The name by which the French-African seaport is most widely known, Bizerta, is an Italian form. Northern Africa has for centuries been a field of activity for Italian and Sicilian fisherman and artisans. To the French the port is "Bizerte." The French are in the minority in the population of the city. Of the total civil population of nearly 18,000 about 10,000 are Mohammedans of Arabic and Berber stock, and some 5,000 are Italians and Maltese. The French garrison numbers about 7,000.

Lost Fight for Supremacy to Carthage

Bizerta, known in Roman days as Hippo Zarytus, was originally a Tyrian colony comparable in age to Carthage. Its citizens fought with the Carthaginians for supremacy for a while, but finally acknowledged the suzerainty of the "African Rome." When Carthage was destroyed Hippo Zarytus became a seat of Roman administration and grew in importance. Later it passed into Byzantine hands and in the seventh century fell to the Arabs. The Spanish captured the place in 1535 but held it only a few years. Then came centuries of neglect under Turkish and local rule. During the sixteenth century it was a notorious lair for pirates.

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have developed a solidarity and purity of lineage which is quite unlike the other states around them. Other peasant bands up and down the valley produce music festivals. Many of the troupes become so well-known that they are invited to appear before great audiences in the capitals.

King Ludwig of Bavaria heard an opera in 1863 which appealed greatly to him. He immediately offered the author an annuity and a house if he would come to Munich. That author was Wagner. The great master spent much of his later life in Bavaria and is buried in Bayreuth, his last home. The Wagnerian music festivals of Bayreuth, given in honor of the composer, are attended by music lovers from all parts of the world.

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A ROOM IN ALBRECHT DURER'S HOME IN NUREMBURG, GERMANY

Durer was one of Germany's greatest painters and engravers, and his artistic career was accorded universal honor and recognition while he was still in his prime. (See Bulletin No. 4.)

When France intervened in Tunis in 1881 a French expeditionary force landed in Bizerta, and the town has been under the Tricolor ever since, though a Tunisian Bey is the nominal ruler. The new channel was cut and the inner harbor of Bizerta made accessible to deep-draft vessels between 1890 and 1895.

Bizerta has strategic value because it dominates both the relatively narrow passages at "the waist of the Mediterranean," those between Africa and Sardinia and between Africa and Sicily. Only the home fleet base at Toulon, 420 miles to the north, is stronger than Bizerta among French Mediterranean naval stations.

Germany seems to have had her eye on Bizerta as a possible point from which to dominate the Mediterranean, and in a draft of peace terms early in the World War let it be known that, as a victor, she would insist on the cession to her of Tunis along with other French territory.

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A TUNISIAN "FANTASIA"

Horse and rider compete against each other to the playing of a pipe and tom-tom. (See Bulletin No. 5.)